

Coins

... and take their place in the nation's pockets

By Roger Boye

BECAUSE THE NEW \$2 bill will be released Tuesday, it seems appropriate to devote today's column to questions about currency.

First, however, some data on the \$2 bill: The United States plans to release 225 million of them [series 1976 Federal Reserve notes] Tuesday, which is Thomas Jefferson's birthday. Another 175 million will be placed in circulation by July 4.

The \$2 bill was discontinued in 1966 because of a lack of demand. But by producing at least 400 million \$2 bills annually [many times the

number produced annually in the early 1960s], the government hopes they will circulate widely and become a permanent part of the nation's currency system.

Q—I have a 1969-C \$1 bill that is one-eighth of an inch wider than it should be. I have placed it in at least 100 stacks of 50 \$1 bills and can find it at first glance in any stack. The long edge contains the beginning of a new \$1 bill. Is this bill worth more than face value?—V.J., Markham, Ill.

A—Yes, it is worth more than \$1 to a collector of "error" currency. At the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 32 bills are printed per sheet

of paper. Most likely, the paper on which your bill was printed was folded or creased when it was cut into individual bills, thus creating your wider-than-usual bill.

It is difficult to estimate the precise value of your bill without seeing it. Bills in extra fine condition with cutting errors are worth from \$10 to \$20, according to the Hewitt-Donlon Catalog of U. S. Small Size Paper Money.

Remember, too, that relatively few people collect error currency, and it may be somewhat difficult to find a collector or dealer interested in buying your bill, assuming you wanted to sell it.